(b) The steps being taken to boost the export of cigarettes mainly are:

(i) grant of cash compensatory support;

(ii) persuading bilateral trading countries to import larger quantities of cigarettes;

(iii) exploring the possibilities for increasing exports during the visit of delegation to thrust markets; and

(iv) grant of import replenishment licence for import of packing material.

(c) State agencies are not involved in export of cigarettes. Export of cigarettes to USSR are in accordance with the trade agreement with that country.

Export of Mica

249. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the export earnings on mica during the last three years, yearwise and what are the names of the importing countries;

(b) what is the role of Mica Trading Corporation in mica export and whether the Corporation is directly exporting mica or it is being exported through some private agents; and

(c) what steps are being taken to augment mica export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Export earnings from mica and mica products during the last three years are estmated as under:

(Value in Rs. crores

Year	Value of Exports
1986-87 . . .	31.61
1987-88 . . .	47.06
1988-89 . . .	42.47

Major importers of Indian Mica are U.S.S.R., USA, Belgium, Japan, GDR and Poland.

(b) Mica Trading Corporation has the objectives of maximising the unit value realisation from export of mica and progressively increasing export of fabricated mica and mica products.

The Corporation is directly exporting both processed mica and mica products from its own sources. Besides, it also allows the private exporters to export on its behalf as selling agents of MITCO.

(c) Steps to promote export of mica include abolition of export duty on mica and mica products except mica scrap, survey of mica mines to assess the causes of closure and take remedial measures, sales promotion tours and participation in international trade fairs, setting up of units for manufacture of value added mica products, etc.

Forest area

250. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of forest area in the total geographical area of each State at present;